Tirupati, where Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) have been installed and commissioned. The benefits of these two centres will be extended to selected post offices around them through modemtelephone line link up.

(c) Satellite Money Order Service ensures transmission of Money Orders within seconds thereby speeding up Money Order Service considerably and the benefit of the system will be available to selected important post offices around each VSAT centre.

(d) No, Sir.

Molestation of American Tourist in Five Star Hotel in Delhi

397. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whethe Government have seen press report published in the Times of India of 20th June, 1995 regarding the alleged molestation and beating of an American tourist in a five star hotel, Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, New Delhi on the night of 20th May, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether any FIR was registered and if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what action Government have taken against the persons involved; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to protect and safeguard the honour and dignity of the foreign women tourists visiting India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Such a news item had appeared in the "Times of India" in its issue of June 20, 1995. A written complaint was handed over to the Delhi Police on May 24, 1995 by Mrs. Ellen Spiegal and Mr. Bruce Davies that the modesty of Mrs. Ellen Spiegal had been outraged by an unidentified male weighing over 100 Kgs.

(c) and (d) A case under section 354/509/323/34-IPC was registered at Police Station Connaught Place and investigation taken up. No arrest has been made in this case.

(e) All the Sub-Divisional Police Officers and Station House Officers have been directed to intensify patrolling and sensitise the patrolling and other field staff, especially in areas like Connaucht Place and other places foreigners frequently visit, to react promptly and correctly to complaints made by foreigners. The police also try to ensure that culprits involved in crimes against foreigners are effectively dealt with so that foreigners have an improved sense of security while they are in the country.

Theft cases in Railways.

398. DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of theft that has taken place in the Railways during 1994-95 and how does that compare with the preceding three years; and

(b) the action taken to reduce such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The amount of theft of Railway property i.e both booked consignments and Railway materials over Indian Railways during the last 4 (four) financial years is given as under:-

Year	No. of cases reported	Value of property stolen (In Rs. crores)
1991-92	101417	13.38
1992-93	104059	12.06
1993-94	90708	10.65
1994-95	76817	11.57

(b) The following preventive measures are being taken to reduce thefts of Railway property:-

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable and important consignments as far as possible.

2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.

3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons/ seals carrying consignments vulnerable to thefts etc.

4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.

5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.

6. Dog squads are deployed for partrolling in vulnerable yards and areas as per their availability.

7. Close coordination between the RPF, the GRP and the local police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and reeivers of stolen property.

8. Based on crime intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of the criminals/receivers of the stolen property in order to bring them to book.

Formulation of Captive Plantation Policy for Afforestation

399. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering formulation of a Captive Plantation Policy for afforestation of waste lands by the paper industry;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the private sector paper industry and if so, what is the summary of the proposal; and

(c) whether Government would take into confidence the environmentalist lobbies and elicit their reaction to such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There is no proposal to have a 'Captive Plantation Policy' as such; however, in view of the increasing threat to encoroachment upon large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently in order to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and check soil erosion, as also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs, and thereby reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, several State Governments had approached the Central Government with suggestions to tap the resources of industry in order to augment current efforts at afforestation. The Central Government is therefore considering the formulation of guidelines for Forest Development Corporation of States to associate with industry in these efforts within the parameters of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

As envisioned, the scheme is intended to benefit the environment as well as rural and tribal communities by increasing total biomass availability in the rural areas and also opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(b) Some State Forest Development Corporation have forwarded proposals from some industries such as M/s. Straw Products Ltd., M/s. Ballarpur Industries Ltd., M/s. Orient Paper Mills Ltd., M/s. Mangalam Timber Ltd., etc. for afforestation in degraded forest lands in association with the State Forest Development Corporations. No decision has been taken on these proposals, since the guidelines are still under formulations.

(c) Suggestions received from various environmentalists and NGOs were considered while drafting the proposal. The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after assessment of various issues involved and ensureing protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communities, as well as environmental, silvicultural and socio-economis factors.